

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A system for providing distributed rendering services comprising:

a local rendering system operable to receive and render a render job, the render job having a plurality of render frames and an associated job description, the render job being associated with a motion sequence of graphic images;

at least one remote rendering system comprising a plurality of remote render servers and a second schedule server coupled to the plurality of remote render servers and operable to receive from the local rendering system the render job and render the render job by distributing one or more different render frames of the render job to at least two of the plurality of remote render servers for individual processing and further operable to return a result of the render job to the local rendering system, the second schedule server operable to place an I/O wrapper around the render job and any files accompanying the render job to permit access to said render job and files only by the render job;

wherein the local rendering system comprises a plurality of local render servers and a first schedule server coupled to the plurality of local render servers and operable to determine, based at least in part on the job description, whether to render the render job locally by distributing one or more different render frames of the render job to at least two of the plurality of local render servers for individual processing or to send the render job to the at least one remote rendering system for distributed rendering; and

wherein the first schedule server is operable to collect and deliver to a remote rendering system, via a first hot folder and a communications medium, information associated with the render job.

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